SIRIUS No. 5 $2.95 USA Tavicat

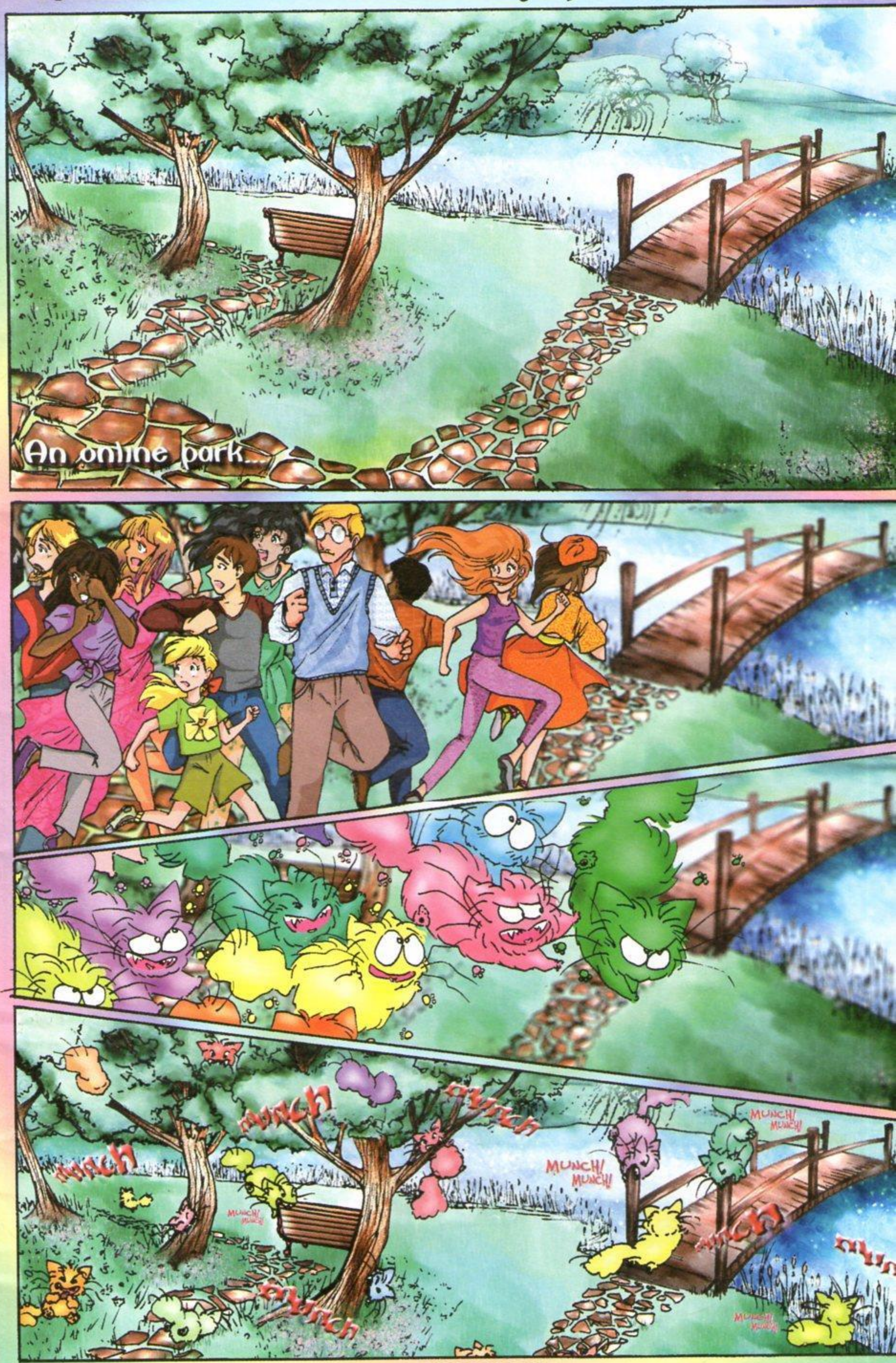
File Edit Effects Options Loopy Boo-Boo Face!

Super Information Hijinks:

REALITY CHECK!™

BC! Access for ALL AGES! ZOWIE! 24 BIT COLOR!

005: Around the World in 80 Megabytes (Part Two)

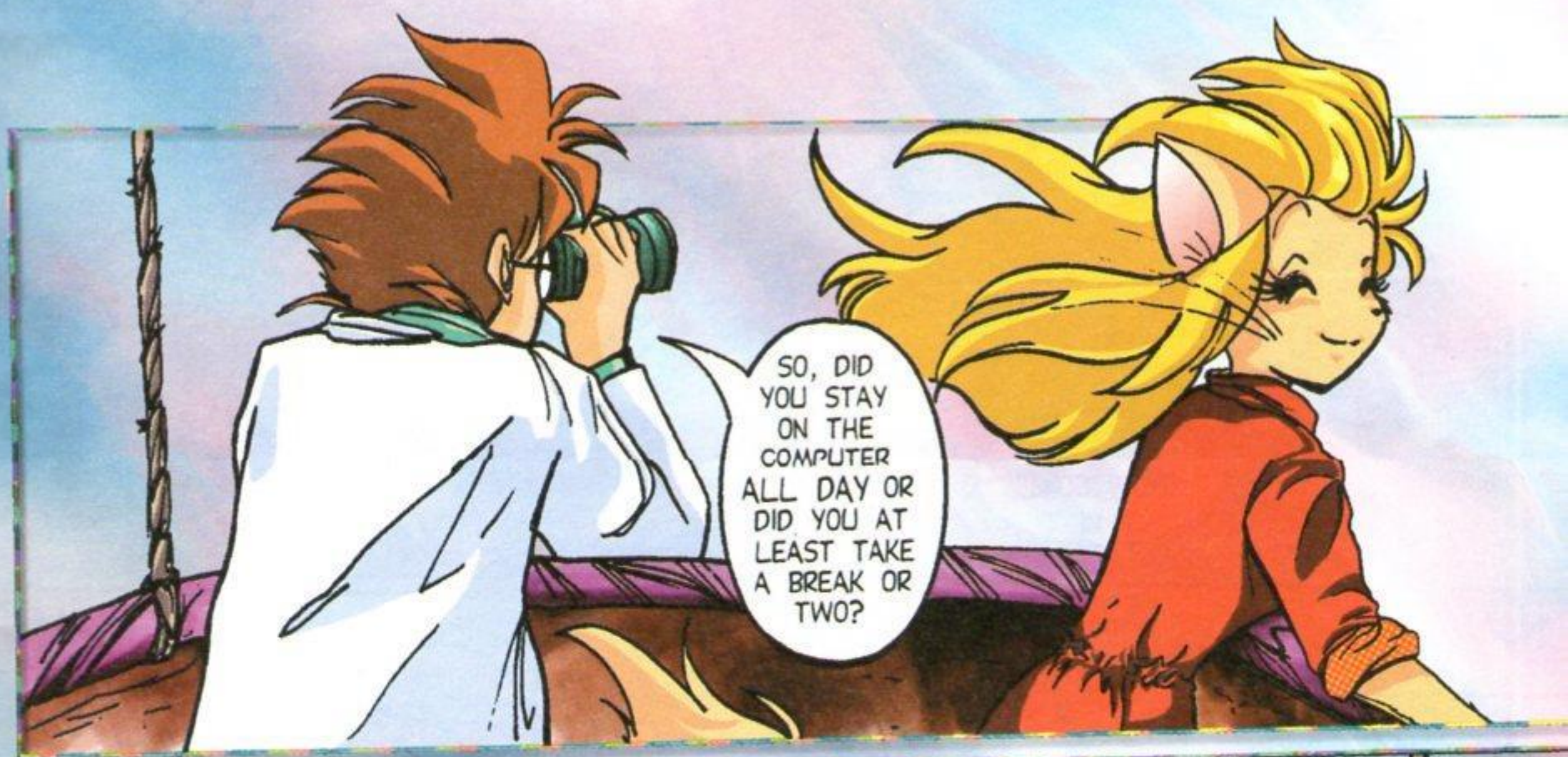


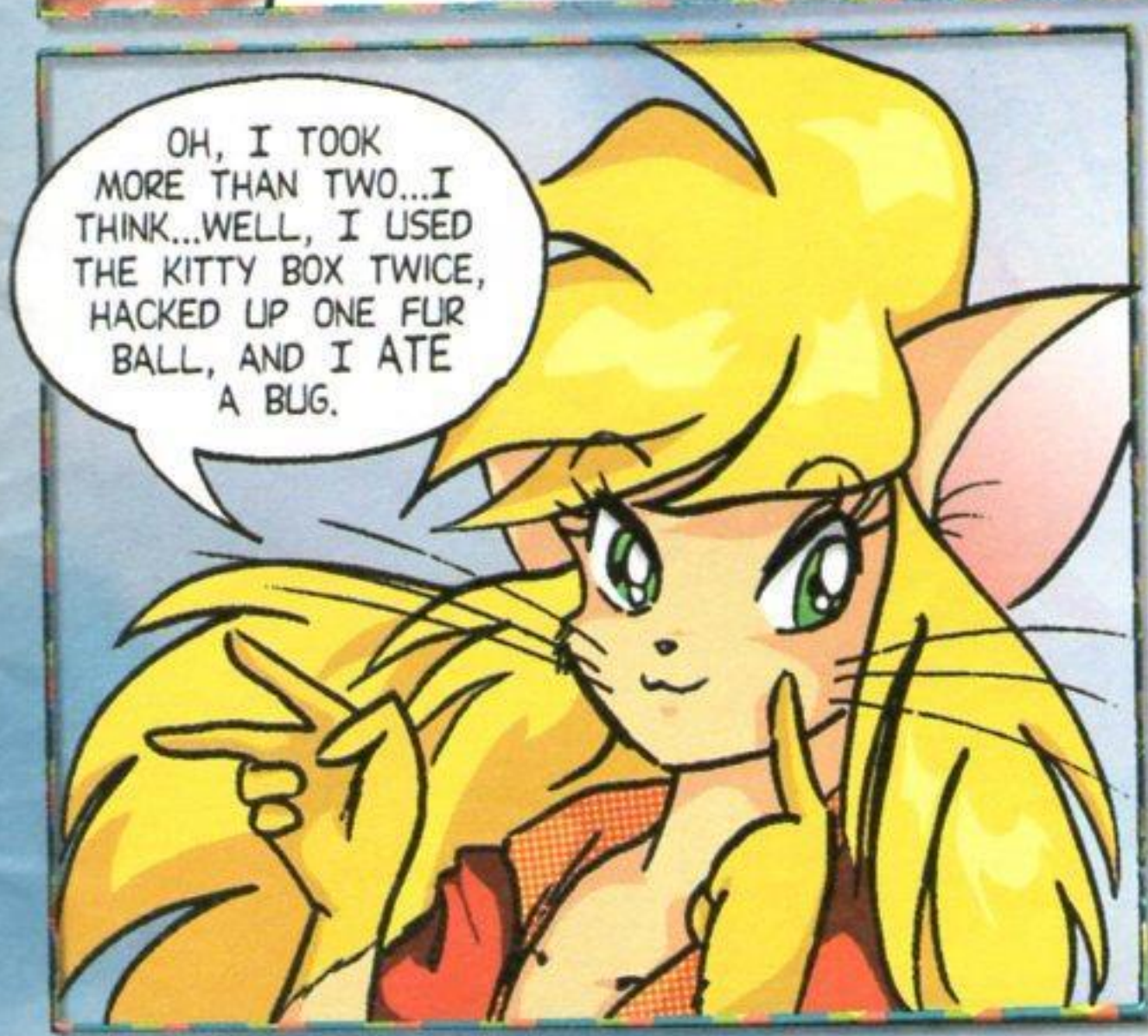
MUNCH!
MUNCH!
?!
LA, LA, LA, LA, LOOOOOPY!!!
?!
JING
JING
JING
JING
LOOP! LOOP! LOOP!
FWOP!
JING
FWOP!
JING
JING
JING

ENEMIES OF THE INTERNET, KRACKERS, HACKERS, PHREAKERS, AND FIENDS TO FREEWARE EVERYWHERE BEWARE!
JING...
JING...
JING...
JING...
I AM LOOPY, SUPER KEY ENCRYPTED MODERATOR OF ALL CYPERSPACE!
JING...
STARE INTO MY PORT-O'-DOOM HOOP AND BE ERASED!
.....
!?
?!

Fizzle...
EEE
EEKK!!!
JING
JING
JING
WHY DIDN'T IT WORK?!?
JING
JING
FLOP!
JING
HOOP, LOOPHOLE EMERGENCY ESCAPE!
WHAAAHH!!!

Elsewhere, Collin and Catreece explore the VIS in their virtual balloon...





HERE, TRY THIS.

WHAT IS IT?

?

IT'S A SNOW CONE.

flipit

ICE CUBE

!?

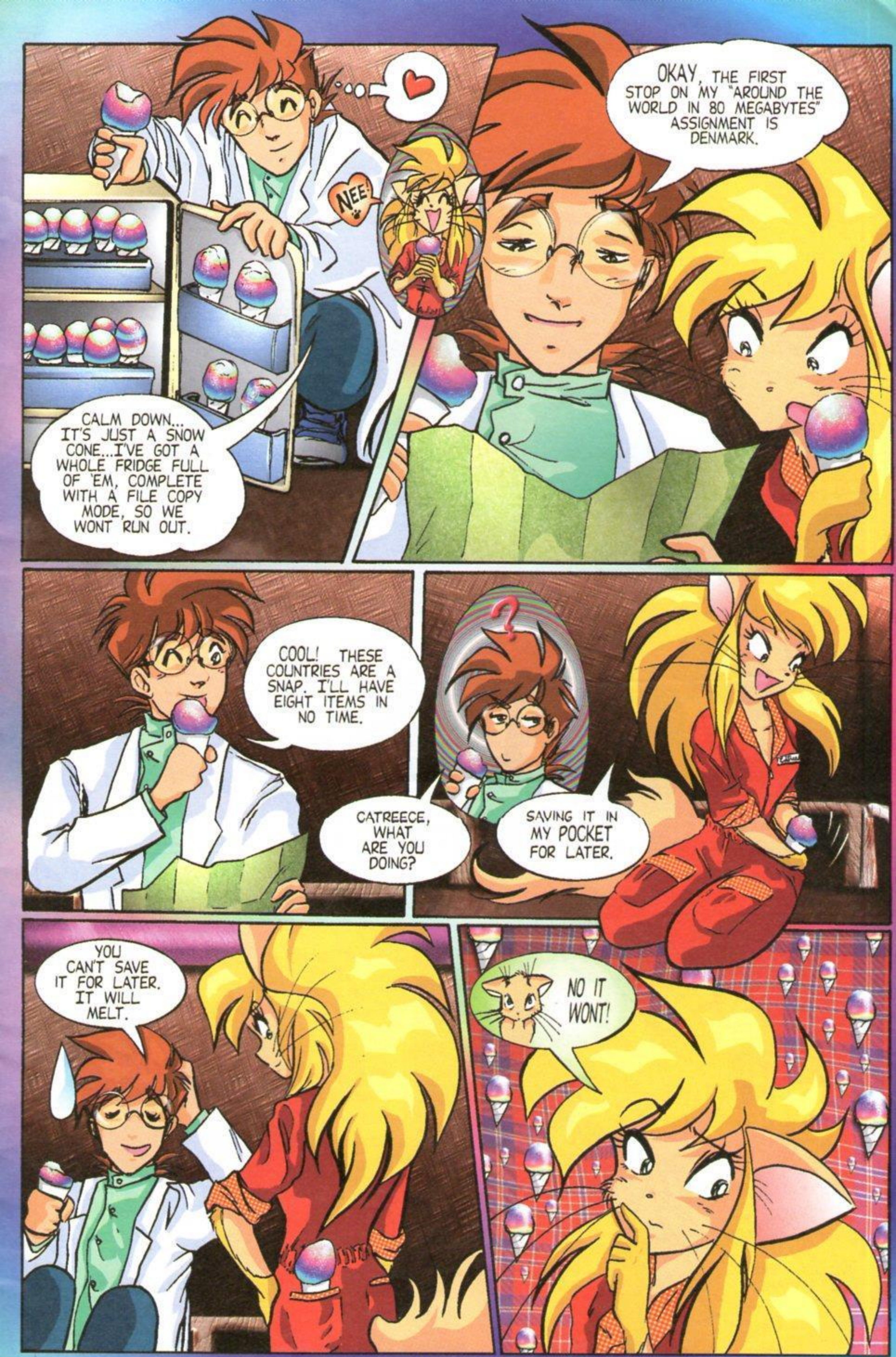
NEE!

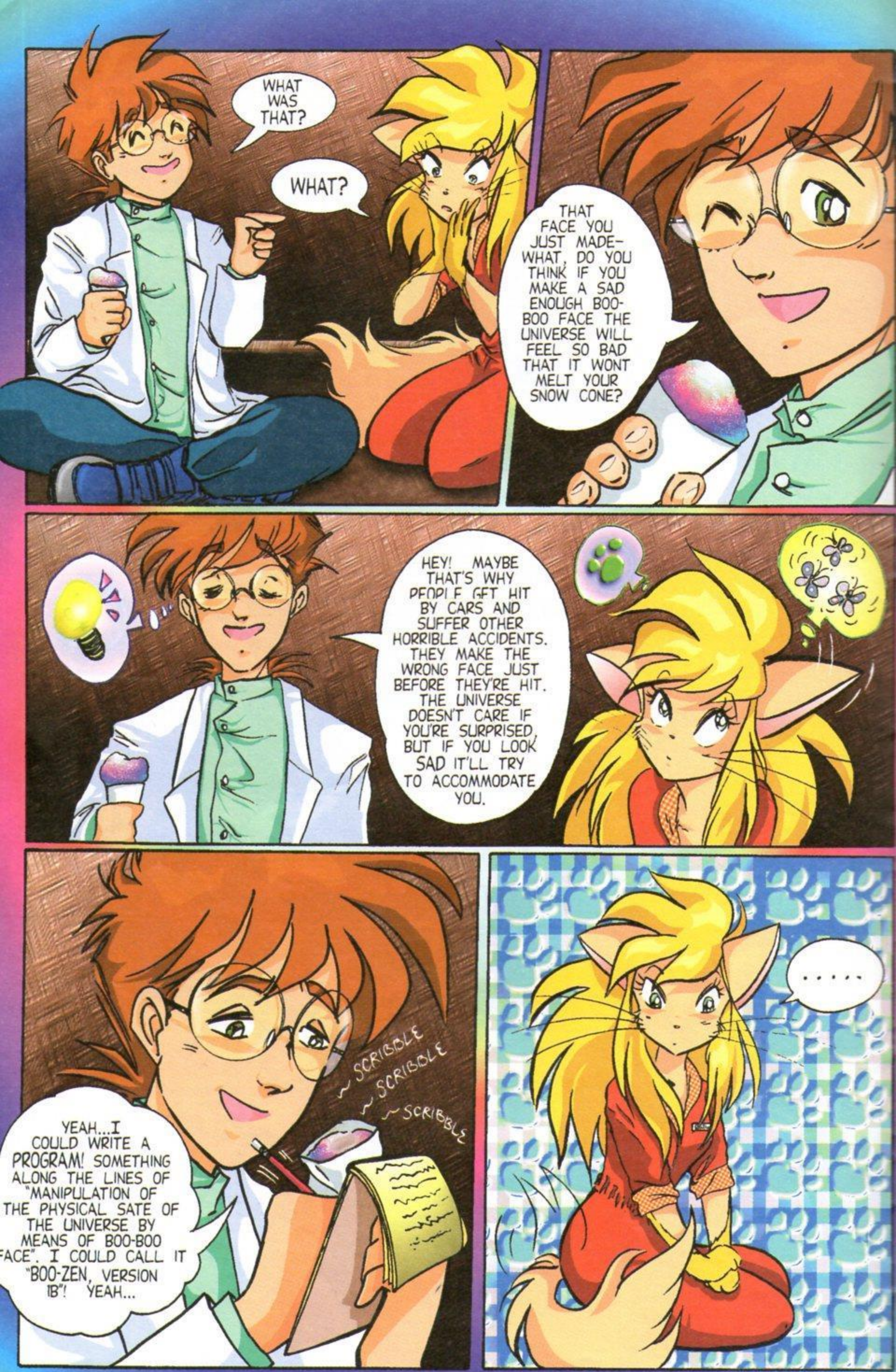
PURRRrrr...

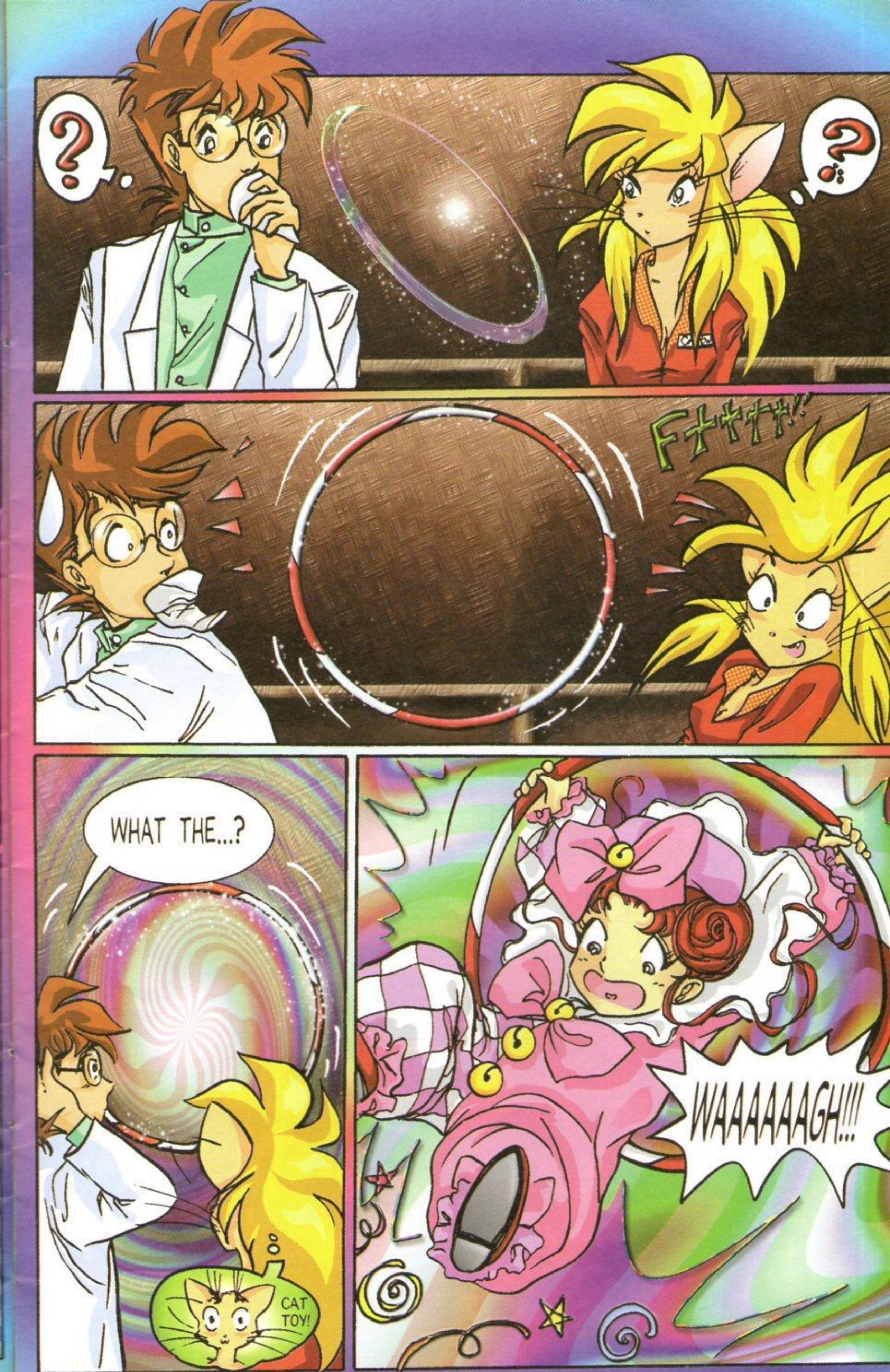
OOOOOOH! I LOVE IT! I LOVE IT!

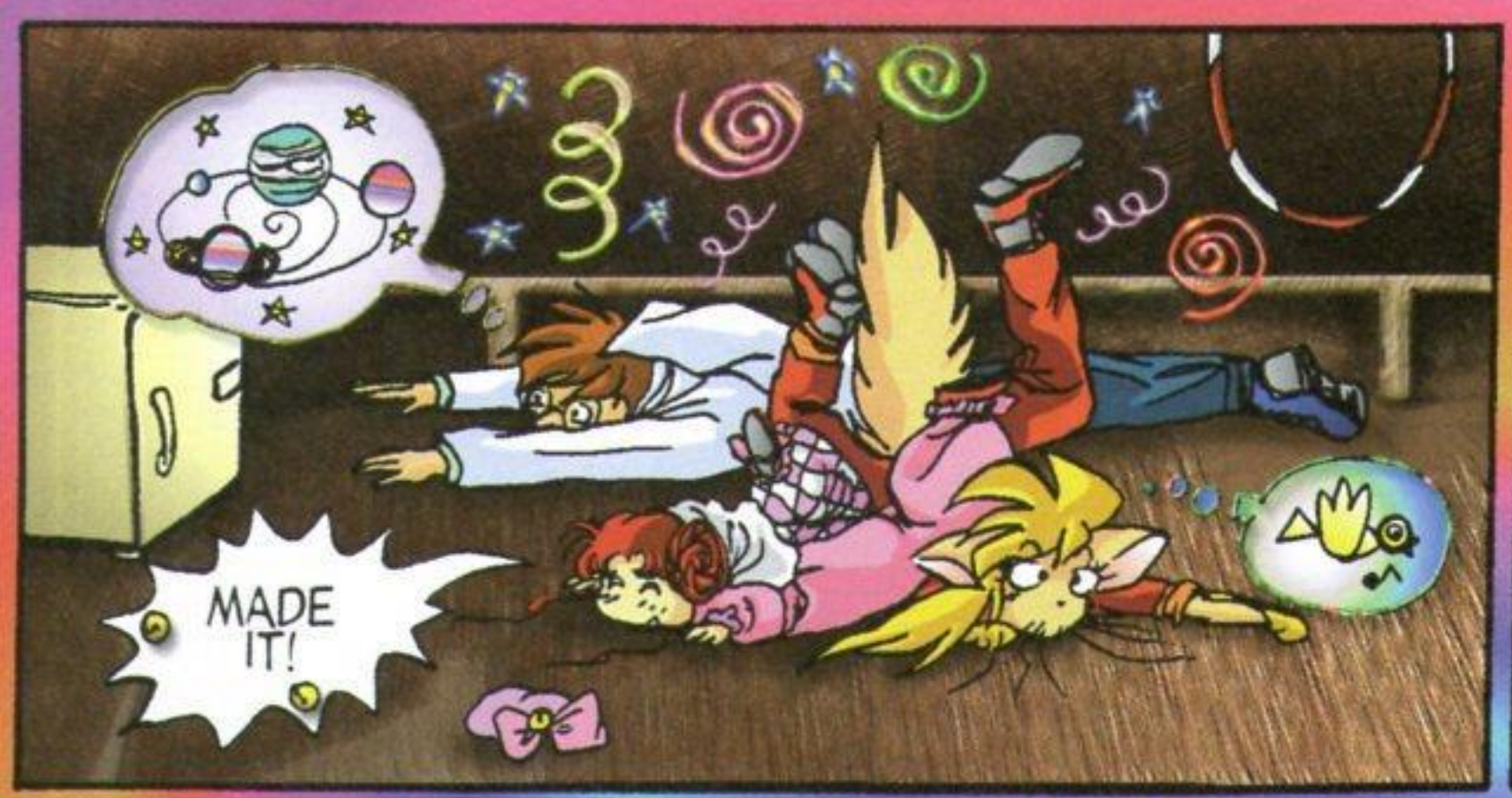
HUGS

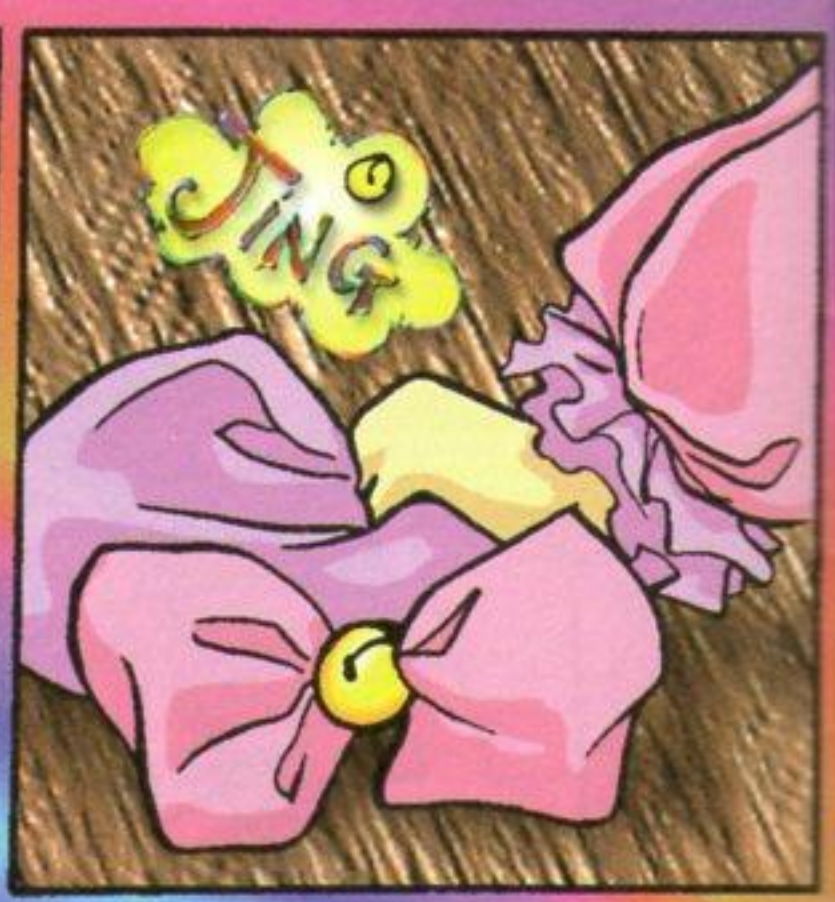
Nmm?!


NEE!
CALM DOWN... IT'S JUST A SNOW CONE...I'VE GOT A WHOLE FRIDGE FULL OF 'EM, COMPLETE WITH A FILE COPY MODE, SO WE WONT RUN OUT.
OKAY, THE FIRST STOP ON MY "AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 MEGABYTES" ASSIGNMENT IS DENMARK.
COOL! THESE COUNTRIES ARE A SNAP. I'LL HAVE EIGHT ITEMS IN NO TIME.
CATREECE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SAVING IT IN MY POCKET FOR LATER.
YOU CAN'T SAVE IT FOR LATER. IT WILL MELT.
NO IT WONT!

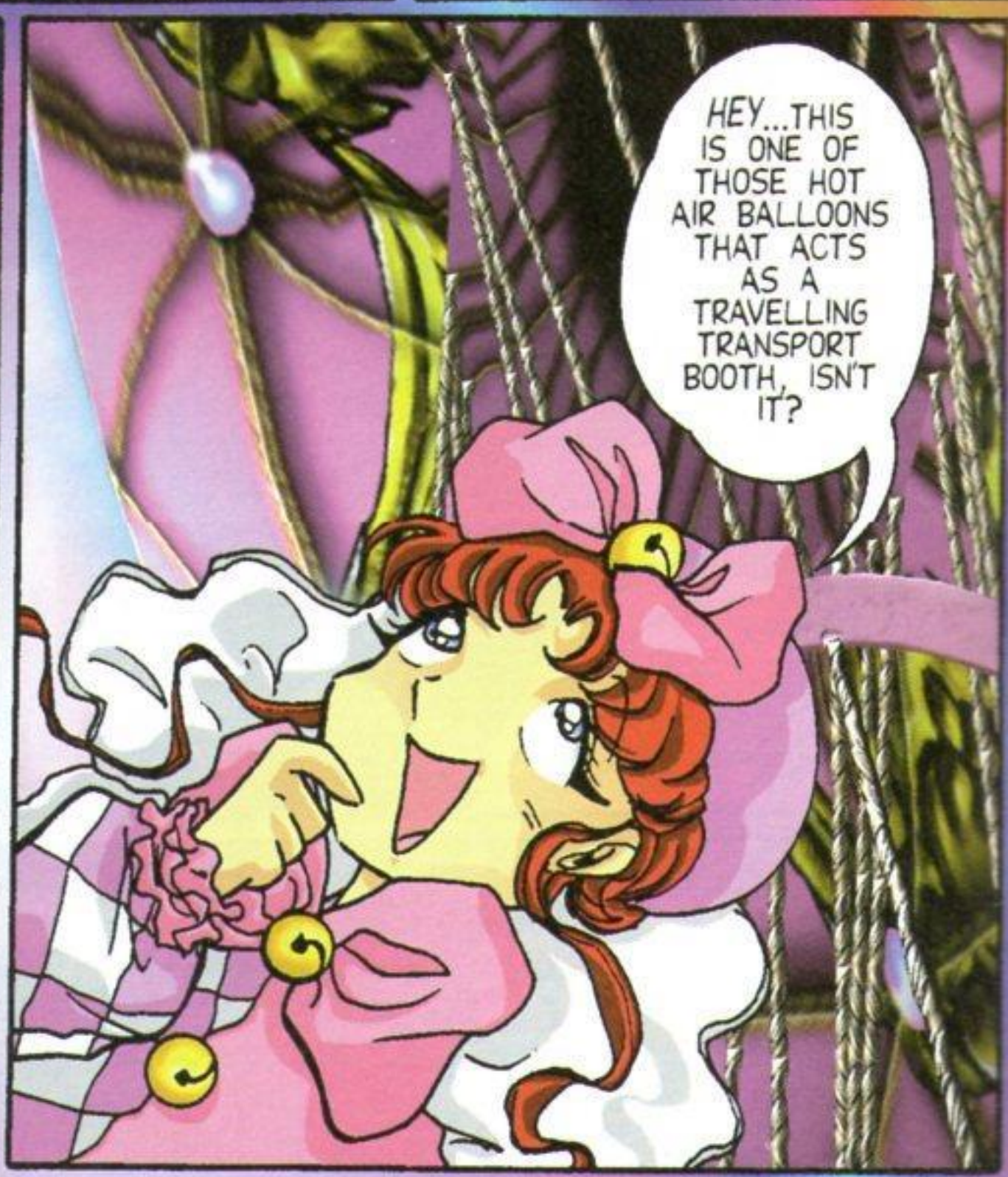

WHAT WAS THAT?
WHAT?
THAT FACE YOU JUST MADE- WHAT, DO YOU THINK IF YOU MAKE A SAD ENOUGH BOO-BOO FACE THE UNIVERSE WILL FEEL SO BAD THAT IT WONT MELT YOUR SNOW CONE?
HEY! MAYBE THAT'S WHY PEOPLE GET HIT BY CARS AND SUFFER OTHER HORRIBLE ACCIDENTS. THEY MAKE THE WRONG FACE JUST BEFORE THEY'RE HIT. THE UNIVERSE DOESN'T CARE IF YOU'RE SURPRISED, BUT IF YOU LOOK SAD IT'LL TRY TO ACCOMMODATE YOU.
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
YEAH...I COULD WRITE A PROGRAM! SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF "MANIPULATION OF THE PHYSICAL SATE OF THE UNIVERSE BY MEANS OF BOO-BOO FACE". I COULD CALL IT "BOO-ZEN, VERSION 1B"! YEAH...
.....


?
?
Ffffff!!
WHAT THE...?
CAT TOY!
WAAAAAAGH!!!


MADE IT!

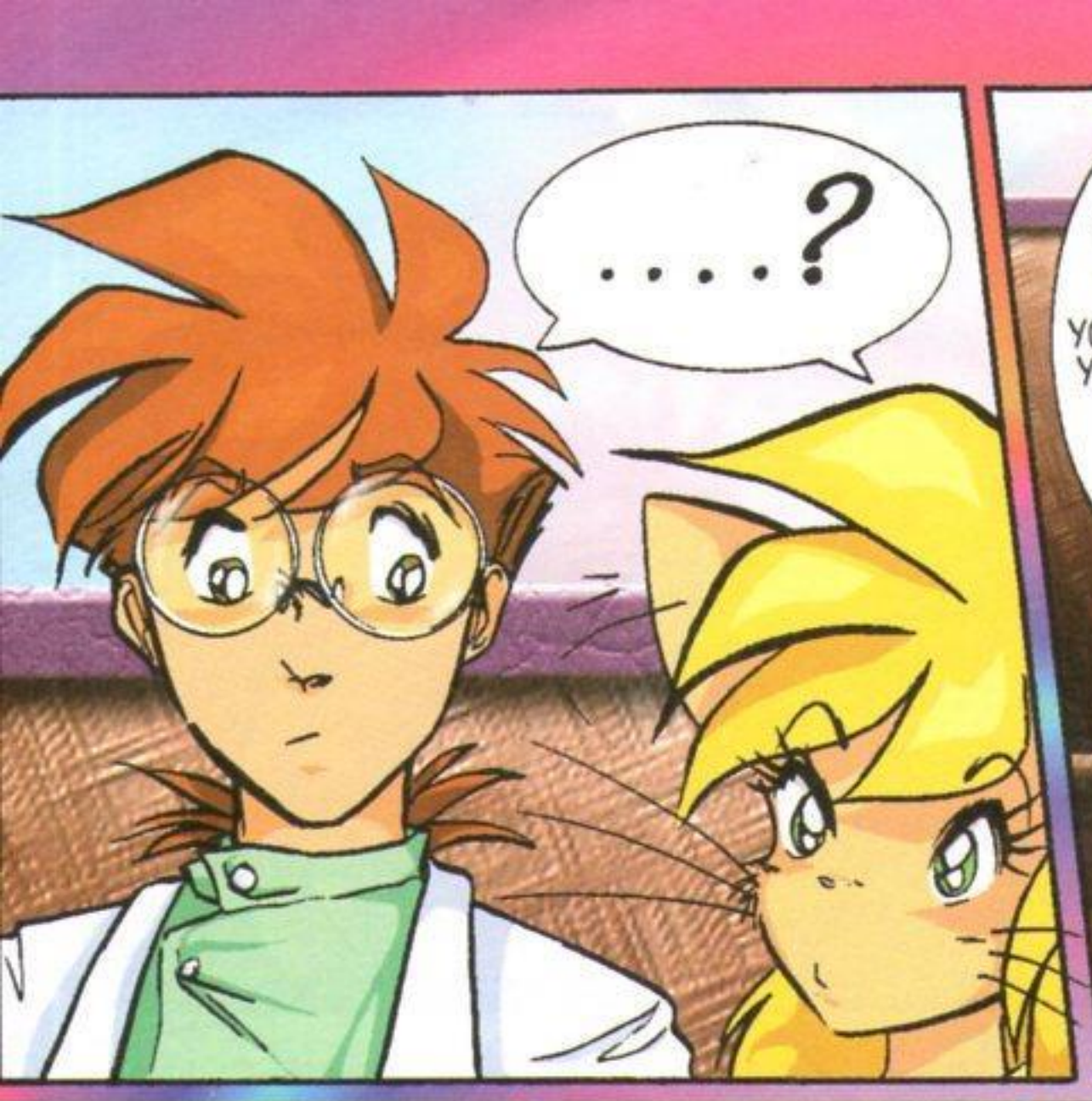

JING

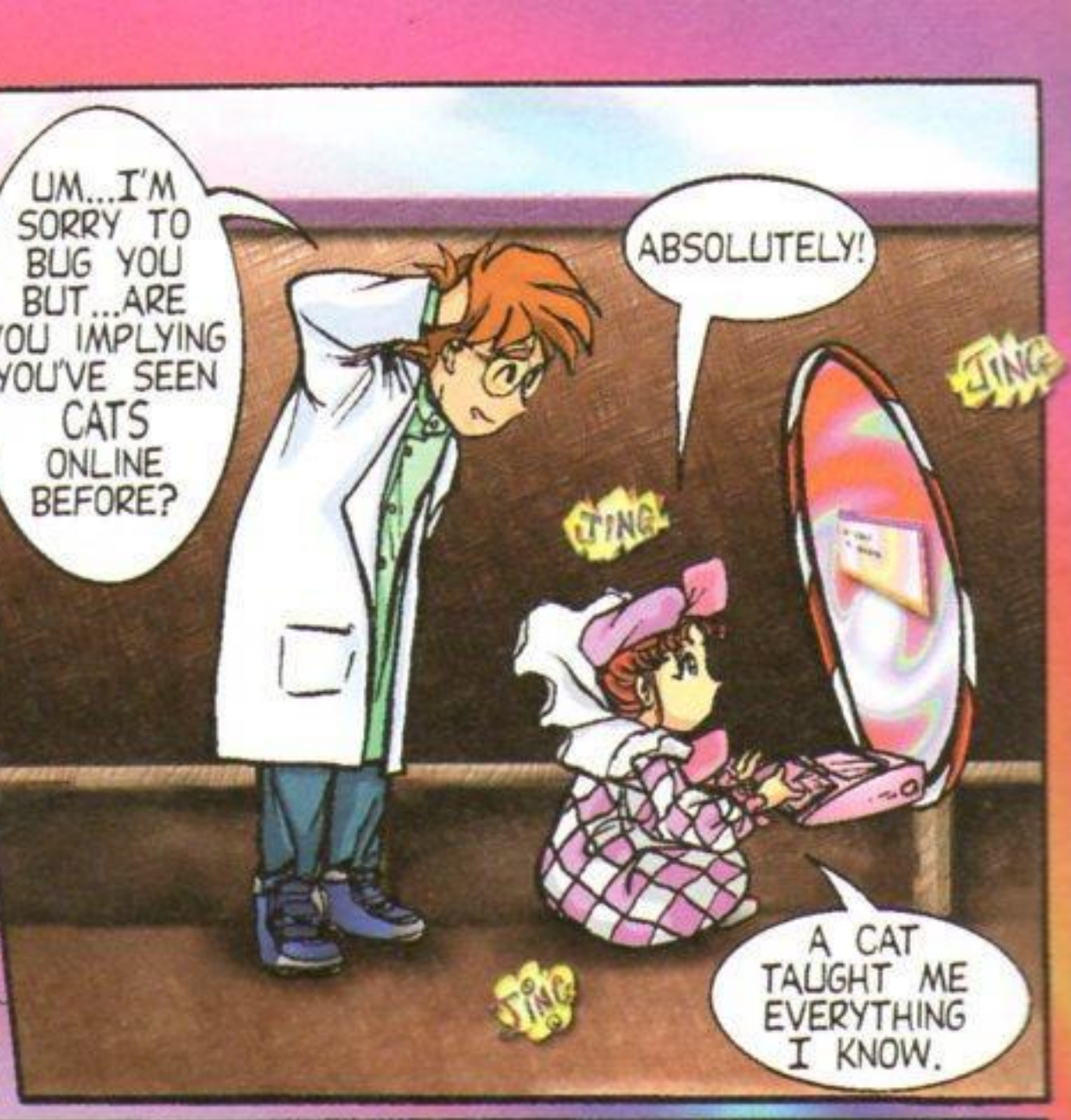
JING
JING
HI. I'M LOOPY. SORRY ABOUT THAT.
DUST
JING
DUST
DUST
JING
JING
JING


HEY...THIS IS ONE OF THOSE HOT AIR BALLOONS THAT ACTS AS A TRAVELLING TRANSPORT BOOTH, ISN'T IT?

JING
WELL? SPEAK UP! HAVEN'T YOU EVER SEEN AN INTERNET SUPER HERO BEFORE?
UH, NO I HAVEN'T.

HEY! YOU'RE A CAT, AREN'T YOU?
YES!
NO!
NEE?
ARE YOU BLIND? OF COURSE, SHE'S A CAT! LOOK AT HER!
THIS DARN HOOP! IT'S SUPPOSED TO TRANSPORT ME TO THE CENTER OF A RUN-A-MUCK. BUT IT GLITCHES EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE AND SENDS ME TO A TRANSPORT BOOTH INSTEAD ...LIKE YOUR BALLOON... HOOP, GIVE ME MY KEYBOARD!
EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT. I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF HUNTING A DANGEROUS VIRUS.
TING
JING
TAP! TAP!
JING
JING


....?


UM...I'M SORRY TO BUG YOU BUT...ARE YOU IMPLYING YOU'VE SEEN CATS ONLINE BEFORE?
ABSOLUTELY!
JING
JING
JING
A CAT TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING I KNOW.

!?
CRACK
I TOLD YA CATS RULE THE WORLD!
YUP YUP!

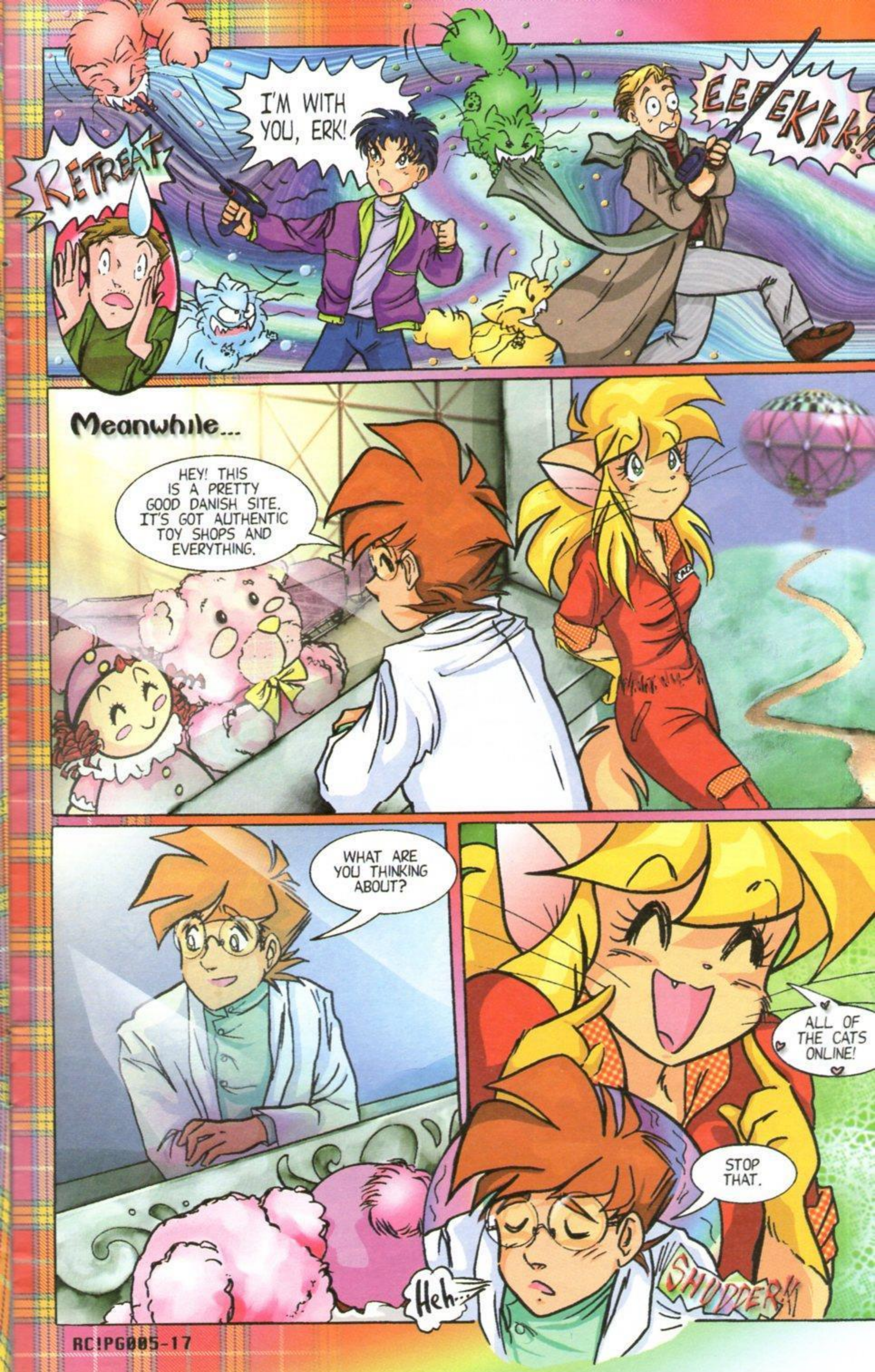
HEY... FOUND 'EM!
JING
YIKES! THEY'VE EATEN 37 RUN-A-MUCKS ALREADY!
Fatal Error!
Fatal Error!
BURRP!!
JING
JING
JING

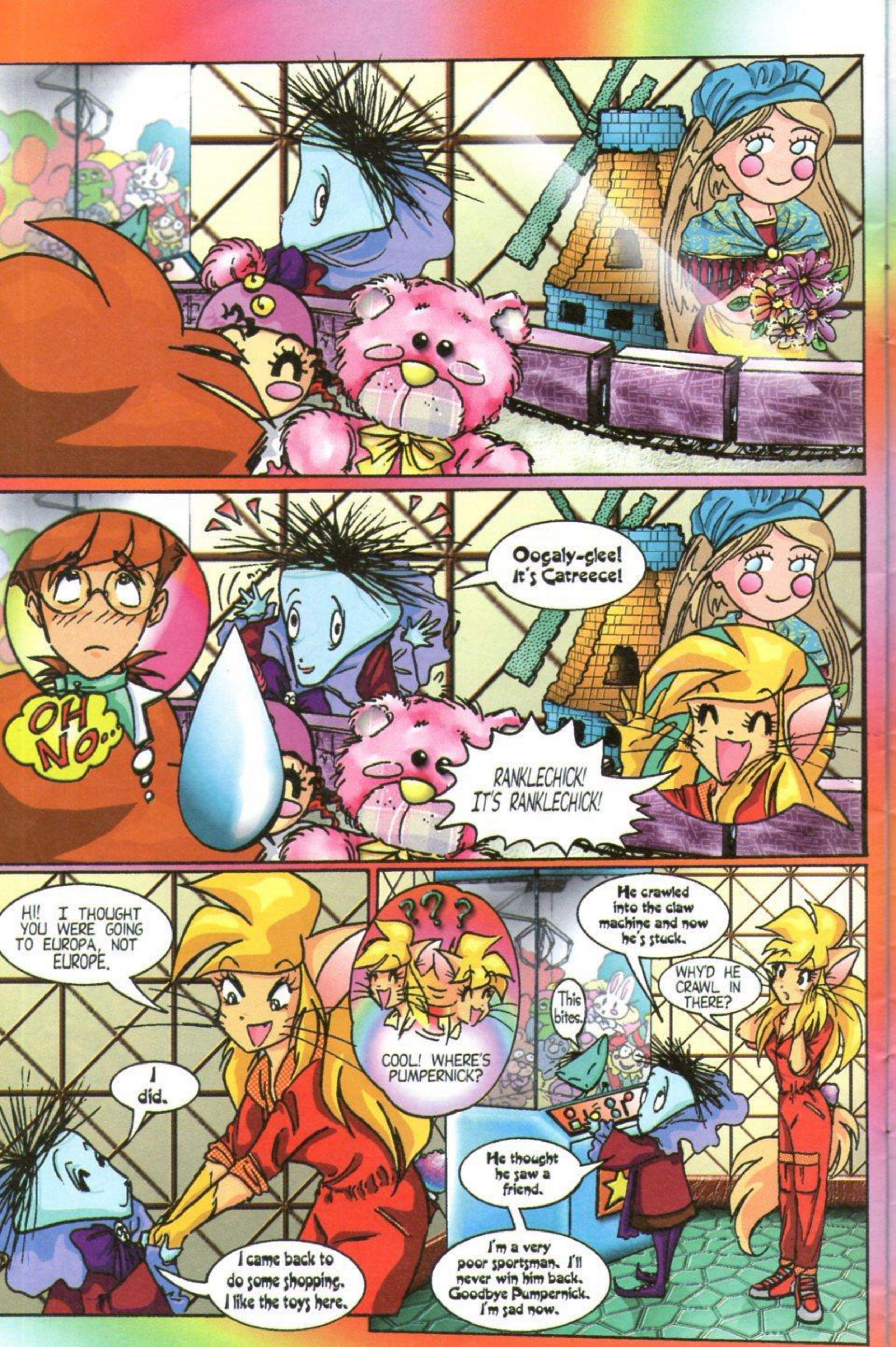
....
WELL I GOTTA GO! IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE ONLINE TODAY, BE CAREFUL. THE PUFFY CAT VIRUS IS GOBBLING THINGS UP FASTER THAN I CAN ERASE IT.
Wobble... Wobble.
BLEEP!
HOOP, TRANSPORT ZETA!
PUFFY...?
FLORP
CATS!

Later, on a Danish Run-A-Muck, we find Erk and Maiko...

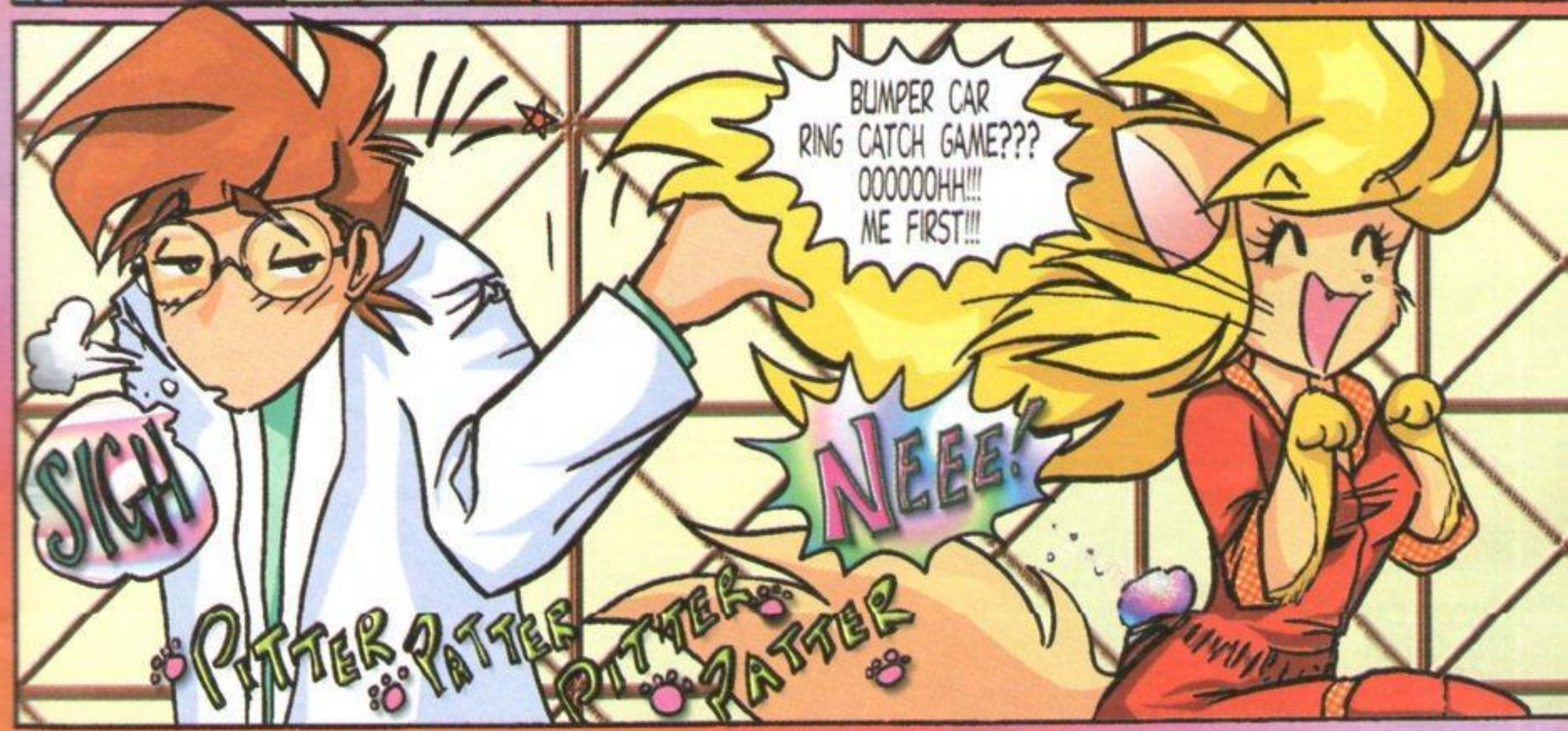
OF COURSE I COULD BE MADE TO CARE... IF YOU GO OUT WITH ME... MAI-BABY.
WHAT???
SIGH
YOU INFESTED KIDNEY WEASEL! THAT MAKES 139 TIMES THAT YOU'RE ON MY SLAP FILES! GET A CLUE!
SLAP
NO! ADMIT IT! YOU'VE LIKED ME SINCE THAT DAY I GAVE YOU A RIDE HOME ON MY NEW SCOOTER.
THAT'S THE BIGGEST MISTAKE I EVER MADE! I WAS DESPERATE TO GET HOME, OKAY? I NEEDED A RIDE FROM SCHOOL! THAT'S ALL!
CLANG!
??!!

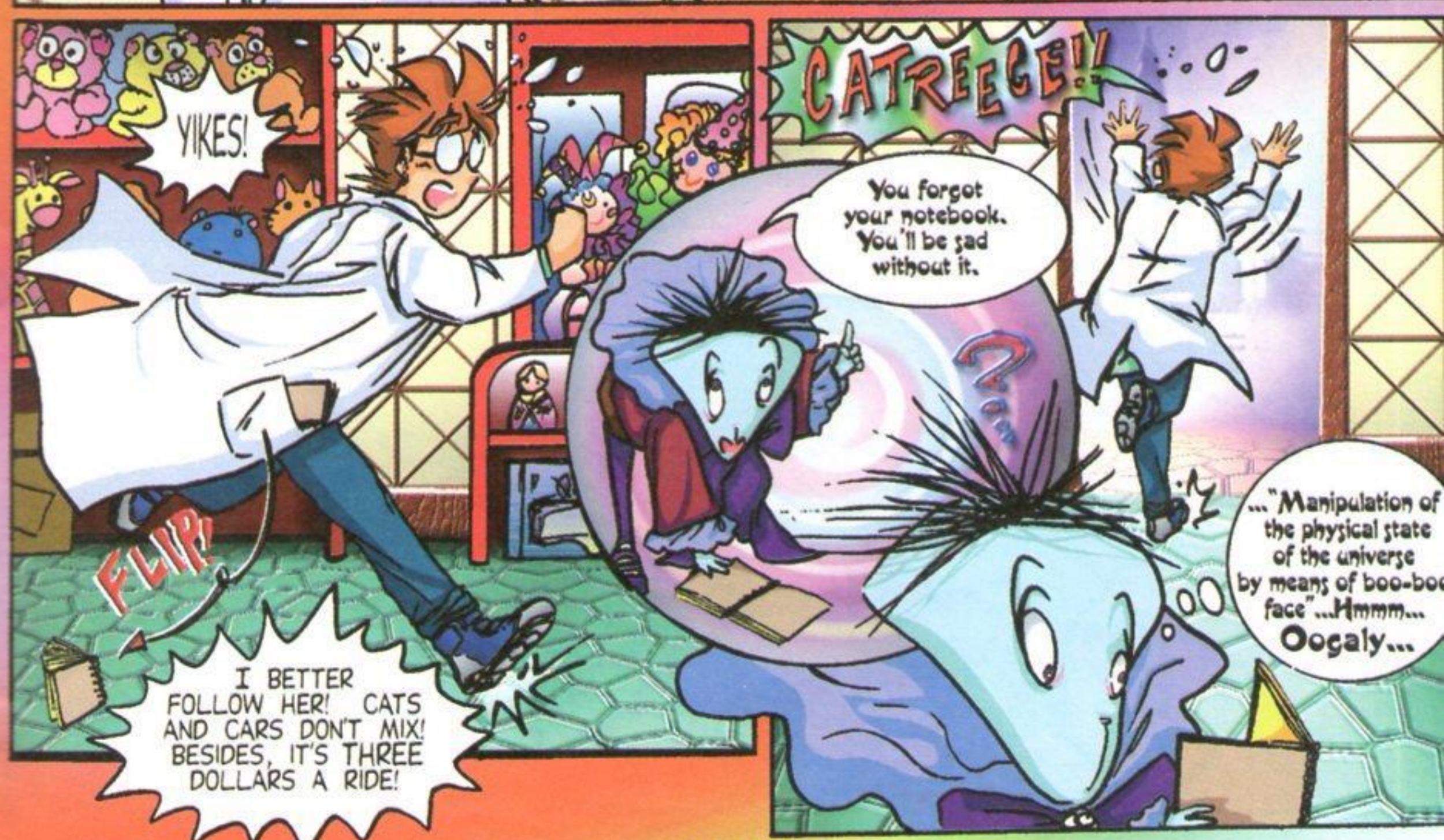
YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME THAT OUR CONVERSATION DURING THAT RIDE MEANT NOTHING TO YOU?
CLINK!!
WOOSH!!
WHAT CONVERSATION? ALL I COULD HEAR WAS THE WIND RUSHING THROUGH YOUR SKULL!
THE ONLY TIME I ACTUALLY HEARD YOU WAS WHENEVER YOU STOPPED TO LAUGH AT DEAD ANIMALS IN THE ROAD!
THAT'S NOT TRUE!! I–
THOOM
HUH?!
...?
Famous Danish Kilns!
THAT'S WEIRD!

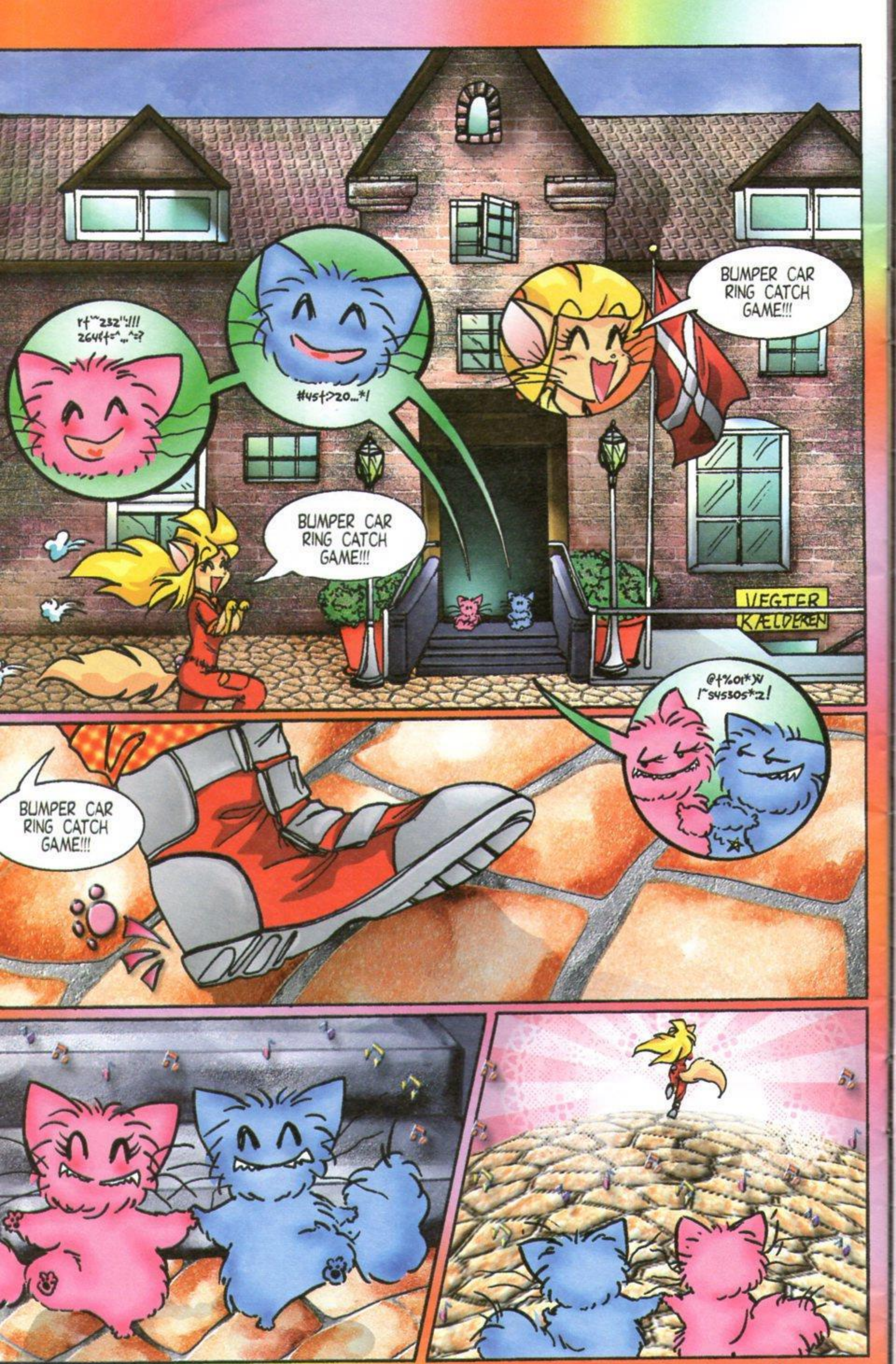

RETREAT!
I'M WITH YOU, ERK!
EEEEKkk!!
Meanwhile...
HEY! THIS IS A PRETTY GOOD DANISH SITE. IT'S GOT AUTHENTIC TOY SHOPS AND EVERYTHING.
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?
ALL OF THE CATS ONLINE!
STOP THAT.
Heh...
SHUDDER!

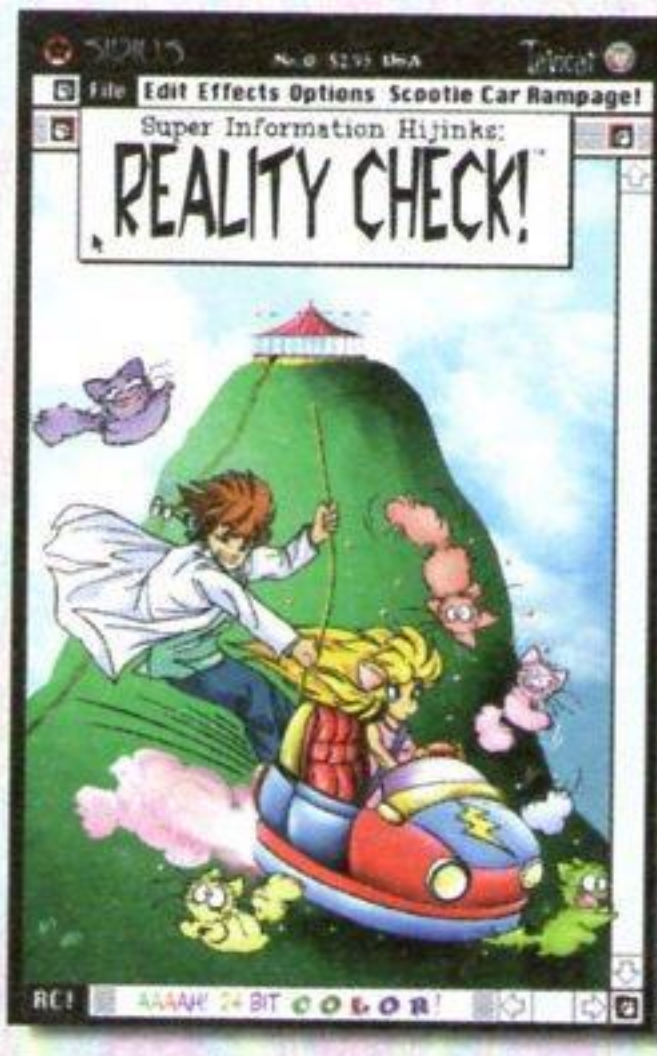

OH NO...
Oogaly-glee! It's Catreece!
RANKLECHICK! IT'S RANKLECHICK!
HI! I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO EUROPA, NOT EUROPE.
I did.
I came back to do some shopping. I like the toys here.
COOL! WHERE'S PUMPERNICK?
He crawled into the claw machine and now he's stuck.
WHY'D HE CRAWL IN THERE?
This bites.
He thought he saw a friend.
I'm a very poor sportsman. I'll never win him back. Goodbye Pumpernick. I'm sad now.

NYA?
WELL, THE SHOP FAQ SAYS IF YOU WANT TO BUY ANYTHING IN THIS STORE, INCLUDING WHAT'S IN THE CLAW MACHINE, YOU HAVE TO WIN POINTS AT THE LITTLE TIVOLI BUMPER CAR RING CATCH GAME FIRST.


BUMPER CAR RING CATCH GAME??? OOOOOOHH!!! ME FIRST!!!
SIGH
NEEE!
PITTER PATTER
PITTER PATTER


YIKES!
CATREECE!!
You forgot your notebook. You'll be sad without it.
FLIP!
I BETTER FOLLOW HER! CATS AND CARS DON'T MIX! BESIDES, IT'S THREE DOLLARS A RIDE!
..."Manipulation of the physical state of the universe by means of boo-boo face"...Hmmm... Oogaly...


BUMPER CAR RING CATCH GAME!!!
BUMPER CAR RING CATCH GAME!!!
BUMPER CAR RING CATCH GAME!!!
VÆGTER KÆLDEREN
Uh, oh...



Next Issue (Issue #6): Around the World in 80 Megabytes concludes with a full fledged Puffy Cat Attack!!

Then, in issue #7, Collin and Catreece must face the terror of: the Nibble Panic Rabbit and his Amazing Scootie Car!

Hi! Hope you liked this month's chapter and that you stick with us long enough to see the third part to this dreaded tale of feline woe. Heh, heh...Looks like we're keeping with the tradition started in last issue's letter pages, in beginning this section with another letter from Andy Tucker from the U.K. I don't know why, but all of our most amusing letters seem to be coming from England. You people are whacky! I guess it's to be expected. My dad was born in England and he's about as loopy as they come (love ya' dad)! Love ya' too mom (I have to mention mom too otherwise she'll never let me live it down). While we're at it, Tavi loves her parents too. There, everybody happy? Good. Here's our first letter.

Ohayo gozaimas!
Compliments of the season and a very happy new year, hope my card reached you in time. I have just returned from Shinnenkai, the 1997 European Anime Convention where, in between watching oodles of anime and spending money I didn't have, I was helping Martin Dudman of United Publications (my aforementioned mail order buddy) run his stall. I managed to get ahold of a spare copy of the con booklet, so I've enclosed it with this letter, as you can see anthropomorphic felines feature quite heavily, with Catreece herself helping to advertise United Publications. Guess who's got first dibs on the original artwork, heh heh heh...Yes, Moi! I managed to get at the Ferengi (Martin) in a weak moment so it's mine, MINE! Bwah ha ha ha haaaa...!!!
Ahem.
Got a Reality Check! pin on the way to me too, it can join the select few on my denim jacket (Lum, Ariel, Totoro, Stinz, Beatrix Farmer, Alicia (from Xanadu), Erma Felna, Fusion, Mage (Matt Wagner), Sailor Moon and Ted the Bug). You will be pleased to hear that sales of the book went very well, and no wonder, "These are a few of my favorite fonts...". Tee hee. But "Ranklechick and his Three Legged Cat"? Where the heck did THAT idea spring from?
[probably from my British side--Rikki]
Anyway. The cat story. The background to this goes way back, to when me and my brother were kids. On the drive over from Swansea to visit relatives in Cardiff or Weston we would amuse ourselves by playing "spot the cat", looking for them in windows or gardens, on walls and roofs etc., scoring points accordingly. The upshot of all this early training is that now I can easily detect a cat shape, even fifty feet away, partially concealed, in the dark. Cats don't like this, if they're hiding it damages their rep if some human sees them right off and goes, "Hello Puss!" Most ignore and pretend they weren't really hiding anyway.

Now the cats in Devizes are of three varieties, those that walk over and make friends, those that ignore you totally and those that achieve escape velocity if you so much as look at them. A year ago I was walking down the alley opposite the museum where I work when I spotted a small black, green eyed cat watching me from under a bush some way down the path. I called out, "Puss, puss, puss.," and the creature flattened itself and went all wide-eyed. As I got nearer it got flatter and even more wide -eyed until, as I walked up to it, it resembled a small pool of tar with two big green marbles at one end. I bent over and said, "Hello..." whereupon it vanished with a small sonic boom and a swirl of dust leaving nothing but a trail of smoking footprints across a garden, up a nine foot wall and over the rooftops. I've never seen it since, I think it might have come down somewhere near China.

Incidentally, one of the science periodicals here, New Scientist, which has a particularly warped sense of humor, put forward an idea for a rather unique form of perpetual motion/antigravity machine. It is known that cats always land on their feet, but that a piece of toast always lands buttered side down. Hence their theory was that if you tied a piece of toast, butter side up, to the back of a cat and dropped it, it would come to a halt hovering just above the ground and spinning rapidly. It could then be used as a power source. I think this is just another thought experiment involving cats.

Right, gotta go. High adventure awaits me, a hunt for the mighty Wild Eep on the edge of the cyber frontier. Should I never return, tell 'em I died with my sailor suit on.

Sayonara!
Andy
Wiltshire
U.K.

Here's that pic Andy got from Martin. By Tavi!

Andy, you funny boy! Speaking of guys dressing in Sailor Moon costumes, this reminds me of one time about a year ago when Tavisha and I were at a Japanese Animation Convention (Anime Expo, I think). A bunch of guys were running around the con dressed as Sailor stunt doubles. One of them, dressed as Sailor Uranus, got in the elevator with us as we headed back to our hotel room. At the time DIC was thinking of taking Sailor Moon off the air here in the States (and did finally), so there was a petition being passed around (and still is) called S.O.S. (Save Our Sailors). Knowing about the petition, Tavisha cheerfully asked the Sailor Uranus dragster if he was a part of S.O.S. To which he indignantly responded, "No! The American version of Sailor Moon can DIE!!" And when the elevator doors opened, off he trotted, nose in the air, snotty little skirt and all. Of course, all I could think was, "If you're going to take that attitude then you'd better put some pants on first!"

Catreece by Violet Bealer of W. Kingston, RI via AOL friend, KittyGirls

Well, I've pried myself away from "Reality Check!" just in time to send you a little email. I'm also almost passing out from the fumes. Woo-ooo! I'd just like to say that I love your comics lots and that the colour is just supreme! Love the pinks and the pastels. Hope to see more issues in the future. In the meantime, I'll go and bury myself in my manga and anime. Loyal to anime always, may it live forever,

Jamie Lee Torres
Hawaii
Via the Internet

Yes, we have a fondness for pinks and pastels here at Tavicat. I don't know why but I always seem to gravitate towards fuchsia when I'm painting. Tavi always remarks, "You and THAT color!" Okay, so my favorite Sailor Scout (Senshi/Soldier) is Chibi Usa...I'm so ashamed... So...Um...What kind of fumes....?

Monster Cat! by Robert Simons of Riverside, Ca. (Age 7)

Dear Catreece:
Fast note....I just want to let you know I really enjoyed Reality Check #4. Rosearik Rikki has made the stories fun and adventurous and this is a comic that the whole family can enjoy. The concept of Catreece living in this virtual reality inside of the computer is fascinating. There is so much to explore. What if Catreece gets inside of the Internet, she can go anywhere, anyplace and encounter so much! The manga approach to this comic is cool, it's not completely manga, it sort of has it's own style. Tavisha Wolfgarth has incredible talent and the artwork reflects brilliance!! The colors are bright and beautiful to the beholder. I love it!! I hope that someday that Catreece will become a cartoon or even some kind of cool toy that our kids can find at Toys R' Us. Maybe, someday, someone will get smart and catch on to that idea!! Will Catreece ever have any crossovers within the Sirius realm? I think it would be so cool if Catreece would crossover with Akiko. Hey, it's only an idea. I know, they both have two different realities, but anything is possible in the comic world, let alone the computer world!! Have fun and keep up with the adventures of Catreece!!

Sincerely yours,
Paul Dale Roberts, Publisher & Creator
People's Comic Book Newsletter
Reviewer of the Comic Club
On-line Ezine at:
http://www.geocities.com/hollywood/3362/

Toys WOULD be cool! We love toys! Back when we were self-publishing we sold about a quarter of our Japanese toy collection just to finance the printing of books one and two of RC! black/white edition. Thank goodness that's over with. We still miss those toys. Hmm...We're not much into crossovers though. Cameos are always fun..But crossovers...Nah, that sort of thing usually weakens the plot of the individual titles too much. Although we do love Akiko...Hey, last issue I mentioned that our two favorite comic books are Akiko (Sirius) by Mark Crilly and Johnny the Homicidal Maniac (Slave Labor) by Jhonen Vasquez. Now I have to add a couple of more to our list of favs: Skeleton Key (Amaze Ink) by Andi Watson is just pure JOY! I don't know why we didn't pick this book up earlier! It's on issue #19 so now we'll have to track down all the rest. Luckily, it looks like most of his (excellent) stories are self-contained. Also, I have to mention Paul Pope's THB books (Horse Press)--actually just anything this guy puts to paper is superb! Here is a man who absolutely knows what japanese style comics (manga) is about! Read his essay on the subject in his P City Parade! Stunning!!! Go buy them all!!!

Tavi's Dancin' Cat!

And now a poem by Jason Smith, sent via the Internet:

REALITY CHECK!

Catreece is a cat who's really cute and furry,
but don't try to stop her, she's always in a hurry.

Trying new things and testing Collin's cool,
laughing about how a human is a fool.

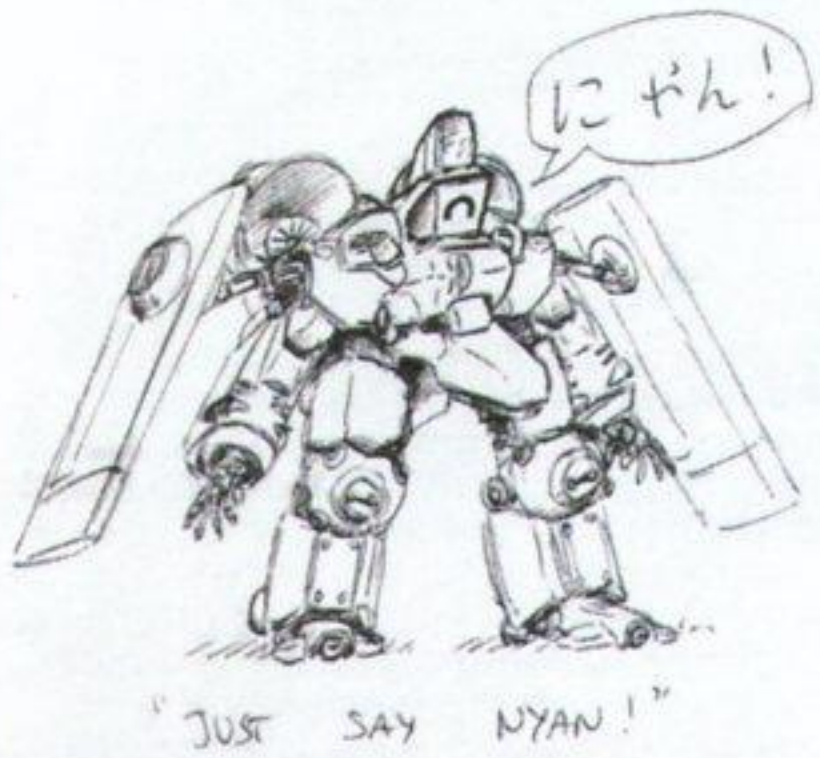
Hook her to a helmet and this cat is set,
surfing around via the Virtual Internet.

When she starts dancing you'd not be tardy,
'cause she can throw a cool hukilau party.

What more can I say? Oh what the heck.
I'm outta here, Reality Check!

Very nice poem, Jason (Jason has a lot of time on his hands). No, really! We liked it!

Hi there!
Thanks to one of my pen pal friends, Michael Kesely, I've been able to review the first issue of Reality Check!, which I immediately asked him to find for me after he sent me a little advertisement about it.
I'm a cat girl lover, you know, and I love Catreece in either of her two forms!
She really is my sunshine down here, in the middle of France where I'm accomplishing my military duties, so far from home, in the cold and sunless winter...
I'm eager to meet her again in the next issues, so keep going on, Catreece!
Sincerely,
David "Madox" Siegl,
Neully-sur-Seine
France



Wow! Not only does David Siegl write nice letters but he draws cool mecha too!

Tavicat:
I read the first two issues of Reality Check! and they were good. However, the real topic of my letter is the Robotech: Mordecai series. It was too good to end! Ug! Agh! Ahem...
I've always been a big Robotech fan but most of the comic books were getting rather dull. Then [Robotech] Clone came out and it was actually interesting and well written and had great artwork.
I understand Antarctic Press will now be handling the Robotech comic. You should have Mordecai as their Robotech comic. I'm writing them to tell them.
Reality Check! is good in its own way, but just isn't the same. Many people as well as myself really miss that comic book. Maybe you can keep making it and just send it to me to read.
Well, good luck to whatever you do (as long as it's Mordecai! Just joking about that...Sort of.) I just really liked that comic book.
Sincerely,
Ian Harrington, Warren MI

I know how you feel, Ian. Really. I remember how bad I felt when my favorite space opera, Starstruck (by Michael Kaluta and Elaine Lee) stopped production in the middle of it's run. But please understand when we say that we're much happier doing Reality Check!--we just don't want to go back to Robotech. It's too depressing; every character we created for Robotech for both the Clone and Mordecai series was original and new, but by creating those characters under the Robotech title we gave up our ownership of those characters and stories. Harmony Gold owned them the second we created them.

Now that Antarctic Press holds the license to make Robotech comics, they could start up their own Mordecai series, if they wanted, without our involvement, and there's nothing we could do about it...But Antarctic has their own plans for Robotect and I doubt they include Mordecai. I'm sorry we can't be more accommodating. Anyway, for us, it's much nicer to make stories like Reality Check! about characters we own.

Until next time...Yappa pa, yappa pa, iishanten...
-Rosaearik Rikki
http://www.tcp.com/~bigboote/rchome.html
Just Say Nya!
=^..^=

RC! DICTIONARY!

*FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions. There are two types of shops on the VIS: those that sell virtual items for use online, and those that sell Real Time items (where the items shown in the store are actually part of a snail mail order catalog for home and business delivery). Most online shops don't have actual employees on hand. Instead, shoplifting is prevented by programming various types of theft protection into the virtual goods in the store. In cases where the shop is selling an online item for use on the VIS, the item will be programmed to drop out of the thief's hands at the door and return itself to the shelf. The rules of a shop are usually displayed on the premises in the same standard question-and-answer form found on todays Internet, called a FAQ.

*Real Time: The real world. Go over to your front door and open it. See all that stuff out there? That's called Real Time (RT). Scary, huh? Okay, get back to your computer, quick!

*Run-A-Muck: An online virtual Realm, located on the VIS and accessible to the public via a TVR Helmet.

*Snail Mail: Real, physical mail, delivered by the mailman.

*Transport Booth: Whenever entering or exiting a Run-A-Muck, people use an object designated as a transport Booth to send their online personality from Muck to Muck. To an observer, it looks like teleportation. Some Mucks only allow entrance through the arch of their own Transport Booth, while others allow you to transport from a remote booth to the center of their Muck. Collin uses a virtual ballon as a portable Transport Booth; not only does it fly across Mucks, but it can also "teleport" itself and passengers from Muck to Muck.

*TVR: True Virtual Reality.

*VIS: Virtual Internet System.

REALITY CHECK!™

Super Information Hijinks